



Legislative Bulletin.....September 27, 2005

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: 0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: Cost unavailable

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 4

Number of Reported Bills that Don’t Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.R. 3863 — Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act — *as introduced* (Jindal)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 27, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3863 provides the Secretary of Education with certain waiver authority regarding state requirements in the Campus-Based Aid programs, with respect to funds made available for academic years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. For any higher education institution located in an area

affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita, or an institution which has accepted for enrollment any affected students (pending the Secretary's approval), the Secretary of Education may waive that institution's requirement to match federal funds for campus-based assistance. The Secretary is also permitted to reallocate any returned funding to institutions that are located in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita, institutions that have accepted affected students, and other certain universities. H.R. 3863 extends for one year, from September 30, 2005 to September 30, 2006, the period of time in which higher education institutions have to obligate funds received for campus-based assistance funds.

Committee Action: On September 22, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committees on Education and Workforce and Budget, both of which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: There is no CBO cost estimate available for H.R. 3863.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.J.Res. 66— Supporting the goals and ideals of “Lights On Afterschool!”, a national celebration of after-school programs — *as introduced (Lowey)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 27, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.J.Res. 66 resolves, “The Congress supports the goals and ideals of ‘Lights On Afterschool!,’ a national celebration of after-school programs.” The resolution lists several findings, including:

- “high-quality after-school programs provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;
- “high-quality after-school programs build stronger communities by involving the Nation's students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of the Nation's young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults;
- “high-quality after-school programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of the Nation's children;
- “ ‘Lights On Afterschool!,’ a national celebration of after-school programs on October 20, 2005, promotes the critical importance of high-quality after-school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities;
- “more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home, and 14,300,000 children have no place to go after school; and
- “many after-school programs across the Nation are struggling to keep their doors open and their lights on.”

Committee Action: On September 21, 2005, the resolution was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.R. 3703 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8501 Philatelic Drive in Spring Hill, Florida, as the “Staff Sergeant Michael Schafer Post Office Building” —*as introduced* (Brown-Waite)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 27th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3703 designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8501 Philatelic Drive in Spring Hill, Florida, as the “Staff Sergeant Michael Schafer Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: Staff Sergeant Michael Schafer, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, (1979-2005) was shot and killed on July 25, 2005, while on patrol near Kandahar, Afghanistan. Mike was shot once, and after instructing his squad to run, he was shot again. Sergeant Schafer, who was raised in Florida, is survived by his wife, Danielle, a son, Devin, his parents, and many others. He was one of the first paratroopers to jump into Kirkuk, Iraq, in March 2003, and while there, he was awarded a Bronze Star. For more information regarding Staff Sergeant Schafer, please visit, <http://michael-schafer.memory-of.com/About.aspx>.



Committee Action: On September 8, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Government Reform Committee, which considered it and reported it to the full House by unanimous consent on September 15, 2005.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post Roads.

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H.R. 2062 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania, as the “Randall D. Shughart Post Office Building” — *as introduced* (Shuster)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 27, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The bill would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania, as the “Randall D. Shughart Post Office Building”

Additional Information: Sergeant First Class Randall D. Shughart in the U.S. Army Special Operations Command with Task Force Ranger, was awarded a Medal of Honor for his actions on October 3, 1993, when, while serving as part of a sniper team in Modadishu, Somalia. While under intense opposition fire, Sergeant First Class Shughart fired from the lead helicopter during an assault on a building and at two helicopter crash sites.



Sergeant First Class Shughart provided precision sniper fires from the lead helicopter during an assault on a building and at two helicopter crash sites, while subjected to intense automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fires. While in this conflict, Sergeant First Class Shughart learned that ground forces would not be immediately available to secure the site, however, he and his team leader volunteered to be put in harms way to perform this mission. During the mission, Sergeant First Class Shughart had only his sniper rifle and a pistol, yet he and his team leader fought through a maze of debris, shanties, and shacks to reach the critically injured crew members. After pulling the pilot and the other crew members from the aircraft, Sergeant First Class Shughart had to kill a large number of attackers in order to protect the crew. Sergeant First Class Shughart continued to fire until he his ammunition was gone and then, he was fatally wounded. For more information, please visit, http://www.cmohs.org/recipients/somalia_citation.htm.

Committee Action: H.R. 2062 was introduced on May 3, 2005, and was referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which reported the bill to the full House on September 15, 2005, by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post Roads.

H.R. 438 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Allston Way in Berkeley, California, as the “Maudelle Shirek Post Office Building” — *as introduced (Lee)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 27, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The bill would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Allston Way in Berkeley, California, shall be known and designated as the “Maudelle Shirek Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: Maudelle Shirek is a former City Councilwoman and the former Vice-Mayor of Berkeley, California. The *San Francisco Chronicle* called Maudelle Shirek, “...a giant in Bay Area leftist political circles” who “was long considered the council’s most leftist member, supporting medical marijuana and benefits for the domestic partners of city employees... Shirek has traveled extensively on political missions, to Palestinian territories in protest of Israeli policies, Africa, Moscow, the Czech Republic, Nicaragua and Cuba, where she dined with Fidel Castro.”

Another source noted, “Berkeley Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek’s support of the Free Mumia movement is just one more chapter in a life marked by international adventures, controversial radical politics and humble community service.” Mumia Abu-Jamal is a prisoner who was on death row in Pennsylvania after being convicted in 1982 of the premeditated murder of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner (For additional information see <http://www.danielfaulkner.com/> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mumia_Abu-Jamal)

Maudelle Shirek was listed as a signer for an International Action Center “call to action” against the Bush Administration. According to its announcement, “The International Action Center (IAC), in coalition with others, is calling for day of actions on September 29[, 2001] against Bush and his racist, anti-worker, anti-woman, anti-gay, anti-environment program.” The Call to Action, signed by Maudelle Shirek states that, “The Bush government poses a grave danger to the people and the planet on many fronts.” It also criticizes the Administration for having done the following in the first three months of 2000:

- “Appointed John Ashcroft as Attorney General. Ashcroft has written of his admiration for the Confederate slaveholders and is a racist opponent of affirmative action, lesbian, gay and women's rights. Like Bush, Ashcroft is an avid supporter of the death penalty and building more prisons. ...
- “While pretending to be concerned about children and education, called for cutting funding for pre-school, child-abuse and children's health programs; ...
- “Pushed for a tax cut plan that would make the rich much richer while giving working people almost nothing.”

Born in Jefferson, Ark., Shirek moved to Berkeley in the 1940s. According to one biography, she fought against housing discrimination and became one of the first blacks on the Berkeley school board. In the 60's and 70's, she was active in the anti-war movement. She founded two senior centers, was one of the first elected officials to address the AIDS epidemic, and helped organize the Free Mandela movement.

—Sources: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2004/08/09/BAG2A84RCF23.DTL>; <http://www.refuseandresist.org/mumia/1997/110497sfally.html>; <http://home.earthlink.net/%7Eenpcboston/sep29end.htm>; http://journalism.berkeley.edu/projects/election2004/archives/2004/11/nonagenarian_fi.html

Committee Action: H.R. 438 was introduced on February 1, 2005, and was referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which did not take official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.Con.Res. 209— Supporting the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month — *as introduced (Al Green)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 27, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 209 resolves, “that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the Nation by supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.” The resolution lists several findings, including:

- “the Violence Against Women Act was passed in 1994, the rate of domestic violence has diminished; the rate of family violence fell between 1993 and 2002 from 5.4 victims to 2.1 victims per 1,000 United States residents age 12 or older;
- “domestic violence affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States;
- “family violence accounted for 11 percent of all reported and unreported violence between 1998 and 2002;
- “about 22 percent of murders in 2002 were family murders;
- “the average age for a child killed by a parent is 7 years old and 4 out of 5 victims killed by a parent were younger than 13 years old;
- “there is a need to increase the public awareness and understanding of domestic violence and the needs of battered women and children; and
- “the month of October, 2005, has been recognized as an appropriate month for activities furthering awareness of domestic violence.”

Committee Action: On July 14, 2005, the resolution was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which considered it, held a mark-up and reported it to the House by unanimous consent on September 15, 2005.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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